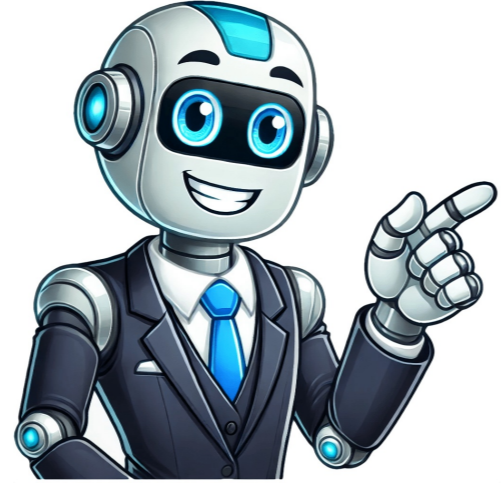


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Charlotte's web book summary

The Wilder Award honors an author or illustrator whose books, published in the United States, have made, over a period of years, a substantial and las The Wilder Award honors an author or illustrator whose books, published in the United States, have made, over a period of years, a substantial and lasting contribution to literature for children. ...more Article written by Emma Baldwin B.A. in English, B.F.A. in Fine Art, and B.A. in Art Histories from East Carolina University. Although it received less than ideal praise when it was first released, today, it is regarded as one of the best children’s novels ever written. It utilizes personified farm animals, including a rat, a spider, and Wilbur, the pig. They all work together in an effort to save Wilbur from his upcoming Christmas fate. The novel follows Wilbur, the pig who, when he’s born, is the smallest of his litter. The farmer’s daughter, Fern, saves him and takes care of him until he’s too old to live with the family, and her parents become concerned that she’s spending too much time with animals and not enough time with her peers. He moves into a new home on a new farm and eventually learns a startling fate. He won’t be allowed to live out his days in peace, instead, he and the other farm animals need to find a way to prevent the Zuckerman family from slaughtering Wilbur at Christmas. They come up with a creative solution that changes the way the farmers see their animals. The novel is well-loved for its depiction of friendship, love, and the importance of helping those in need. Today, it’s read by children and adults around the world and has been the source of inspiration for television shows and films. Spoiler alert: important details of the novel are revealed below. When the novel begins, a young eight-year-old girl named Fern saves a runt pig on her parents’ farm. She stops her parents from killing the small creature, chastising them for wanting to kill an animal just because it’s smaller and weaker than its siblings. She names the pig Wilbur and takes care of him until he is too big. He’s sold to the Zuckerman’s who owns a nearby farm. They buy him for six dollars, and Fern visits him as often as she can. Wilbur and Fern get older, and Wilbur feels bored and friendless without his young human companion. Soon, he meets a spider named Charlotte, who lives on the web above Wilbur’s pen. He’s excited to have someone to talk to but also notices how different they are from one another. Wilbur seems to be the only one on the farm who doesn’t realize that his owners are planning to slaughter him for Christmas dinner. Soon, summer arrives, and Fern continues to visit her pig friend. He’s growing larger, and finally, one of the sheep tells him that he’s going to be slaughtered to make ham and bacon. Wilbur is, of course, terrified and hopes that someone will save him from his fate. Charlotte, the spider, decides that she is going to come up with a plan to save Wilbur. She destroys part of her web and starts remaking it with a specific message aimed at the farmers. She writes out the words “some pig” in the web. Everyone on the farm is astonished by this event, and people come from all over the country to see Wilbur. The farm animals work to think of more words to write in Charlotte’s Web. She eventually uses the word “terrific” and people arrive from the surrounding areas to see Wilbur. Inspired by paper ads, she also writes the word “radiant.” Near the end of summer, all the characters go to a fair, including Charlotte and Templeton the rat, who hide themselves in Wilbur’s crate so that they can accompany him. Charlotte builds the web above Wilbur’s pen, and they all make friends with another pig named uncle. Templeton brings back a scrap of newspaper with the word “humble” as inspiration for Charlotte. The next morning, Charlotte is revealed to have made an egg sack with 514 eggs. She knows that she probably won’t survive to meet her children. It’s also discovered that Uncle has won first prize at the fair. Wilbur eventually receives a special third-place medal and faints from excitement. Charlotte tells Wilbur that she’s going to die soon, and Wilbur asks Templeton to retrieve her egg sack from Wilbur’s crate. The next day Charlotte passes away. Back at the farm with the egg sac, Wilbur takes care of it throughout the winter until tiny spiders begin crawling out of it. Each young spider eventually moves away from Wilbur’s stall, except for three of Charlotte’s daughters, who decide to stay with Wilbur and be his friend. They continue to reproduce, creating a cycle of spider-pig friendships that last for years. Charlotte’s Web tells the story of a young pig named Wilbur, who is saved from certain death by a resourceful spider named Charlotte. The book follows Wilbur and Charlotte’s friendship as they find creative ways to keep Wilbur safe from Farmer Zuckerman. Charlotte’s Web is suitable for readers of all ages. While it has some more mature themes, its message of friendship, loyalty, and courage is appropriate for readers of all ages. Charlotte’s Web was written by E.B. White, who was born in Mount Vernon, New York, in 1899. It was first published in 1952 and is considered to be E. B. White’s masterpiece. But he also wrote other children’s novels, like Stuart Little, that are also loved by young readers around the world. Charlotte’s Web by E.B. White is an important work of literature for its timeless and powerful story about friendship, loyalty, and perseverance. It teaches valuable lessons about love and acceptance, as well as the importance of helping those in need and standing up for what is right. Join Book Analysis for Free! Exclusive to Members Get access now Home » E.B. White » Charlotte’s Web » Summary B.A. in English, B.F.A. in Fine Art, and B.A. in Art Histories from East Carolina University. Emma Baldwin, a graduate of East Carolina University, has a deep-rooted passion for literature. She serves as a key contributor to the Book Analysis team with years of experience. edit descriptions of this character. Helen Constant founded the Massachusetts Children’s Book Award Program in 1975. Designed for Massachusetts schoolch. Helen Constant founded the Massachusetts Children’s Book Award Program in 1975. Designed for Massachusetts schoolchildren in grades 4-6, the program briefly included grades 7-9 from 1978 through 1983.Today, fourth-, fifth-, and sixth-graders are given a master list of book titles. After reading five of the books, students may vote for their favorite. edit descriptions of this character edit descriptions of this character edit descriptions of this character Charlotte’s Web is one of the most popular children’s books. It’s also lived by kids’ writers like Kate DiCamillo, who also wrote a foreword for a later edition. It’s filled with memorable characters and lines that get stuck in our brains. Some of the most famous lines from Charlotte’s Web deal with the strong friendship between a small pig, Wilbur, and a spider, Charlotte. As the plot progresses, they form a strong bond, and Charlotte says at one point: “I am not going to let you die, Wilbur.” Other lines are about human nature. In this article, I’ll present and describe the 17 most famous lines from E. B. White’s Charlotte’s Web. Many of these quotes deal with the friendship between Charlotte and Wilbur. There are also quotes about accepting the difference and human nature The friendship theme looms large in Charlotte’s Web, and this line best describes the strong bond between Wilbur and Charlotte. In the scene, Charlotte was pregnant with her eggs and knew she’d need to build a web nest for them soon. When Wilbur begged her to come to the County Fair with him, she refused. After many pleas, Charlotte agreed and said she’d come to the Fair if she were able to, which made Wilbur’s day. This line contains Wilbur’s honest opinion about himself, which isn’t the best. Because Wilbur was born small and weak, Mr. Arable wanted to kill him until Fern, his daughter, stopped him. Other animals also mocked Wilbur, making him form a weak opinion about himself. However, his friend Charlotte was always there to cheer him up and motivate him. This is best seen in the rest of this quote. After Wilbur says the line from above, Charlotte quickly adds: “You’re terrific as far as I’m concerned,” replied Charlotte, sweetly, ‘and that’s what counts. You’re my best friend, and I think you’re sensational.’” This line shows Wilbur’s need for friends. His need for love instead of food shows his difficult life up until then. In fact, he always had to worry about his life because when he was sold to Homer Zuckerman, it was clear Zuckerman would slaughter Wilbur before the winter. Regardless of this, Wilbur just wanted to have a friend. When other animals refused to be his friends, Charlotte took pity and befriended Wilbur, promising to save him from being killed. When Wilbur asks Charlotte why she helped him when he never did anything for her, she says he’s her friend. She quickly added the line above. She explained to Wilbur that a spider’s life isn’t always great, and helping him was, in a way, helping herself. That’s also true of human beings. As Charlotte points out in the quote, anybody could benefit from helping other people without expecting anything in return. We’ll often find that just by helping someone, our life gets just a little bit better. In the same scene as the one above, Charlotte’s honest about her friendship with Wilbur. Wilbur thinks that friends have to do things to repay all they’re doing for each other, so he gets confused about why Charlotte would help him when he never did anything for her. For Charlotte, being true friends is plenty enough. She never expected anything in return from Wilbur. This is one of the most important lines in Charlotte’s Web. When Wilbur learns Uncle Homer’s raising him for slaughter, he gets into a panic attack and starts shouting, “I don’t want to die!” At this point, Charlotte promises Wilbur that she’d protect him and promises she won’t let him die. Later, Charlotte comes up with a brilliant plan to save Wilbur by weaving her web into words like “Some pig!” for Uncle Homer to see and be impressed with Wilbur. This ultimately saves Wilbur’s life. You’d think a pig and a spider would never be good friends. However, that’s precisely what happens in Charlotte’s Web. When Wilbur arrives at Uncle Homer’s farm, he tries to make new friends with various animals, but none are interested. Suddenly, he hears a voice saying the line above. Wilbur gets surprised and asks whose voice that is, but because Charlotte’s a spider, it’s hard to notice her. That’s how their life-long friendship started. When Wilbur finally makes a friend, he can hardly sleep from excitement. When morning comes, he starts yelling for the mysterious voice to reveal itself. Other animals immediately get annoyed with Wilbur’s shouting, and the sheep orders him to stop, saying this hilarious quote: “If you have a new friend here, you are probably disturbing his rest, and the quickest way to spoil a friendship is to wake somebody up in the morning before he is ready. How can you be sure your friend is an early riser?” Honestly, I think we all agree with the sheep’s comment! This line shows E. B. White’s wit and criticism of human nature. Part of the fun in the entire section is that Charlotte—a spider—mocks humans that it took them eight years to build a “web” that she could build in a day. She’s referring to Queensborough Bridge here. More importantly, White makes fun of humans because we’re constantly in some hurry. Although humans live longer than barn spiders, Charlotte’s still glad she has nowhere to hurry. Maybe that’s the reason why she can help Wilbur. What parent doesn’t worry about their kids? E. B. White certainly noticed that, but he advises parents to leave room for breathing when raising children. This line comes from the scene in the book where Fern, a little girl who saved Wilbur from her father, and her brother, Avery, go on their Uncle Homer’s swing in the barn. It’s a huge rope swing that frightened parents when their kids used it. However, White here suggests that nothing bad ever happened. Kids are capable of more than their parents think. Charlotte devised a plan to save Wilbur’s life from Uncle Homer. She’d weave impressive words describing Wilbur so Uncle Homer would spare him when he saw he had an extraordinary pig. Charlotte and Goose decide to use the word “terrific,” but Wilbur objects. He believes he isn’t terrific. As the response, Charlotte states the line above. The line shows how superficial and easy to fool humans are. Although the book was published in 1952, this statement is as true today as it was back then. We jump too quickly to conclusions and believe everything we see—even the animals know that about us. The chapter where this line appears describes how Charlotte waited passionately for an idea of how to save Wilbur. She knew an idea would come to her just like bugs do when they get stuck in her web. Suddenly, the idea finally came, and he uttered the line above. Again, E. B. White uses irony here to comment on human nature. He states through Charlotte how people aren’t that smart in many ways. In fact, for Charlotte, even bugs are smarter than human beings. Of course, by the end of the book, that proves to be true. This line also shows Charlotte’s wit and resourcefulness. She uses everything at her disposal to trick human beings, especially her web. When Charlotte’s baby spiders finally hatch, Wilbur takes care of them. He’s excited that he got so many friends now (over 500!). However, little spiders soon start “flying away” by producing a web and letting the air carry them far away. Wilbur becomes upset, and one of the spiders states the line above. It’s a wonderful line depicting that every bird must leave its nest one day. As we grow older, we also need to go into the wide world to try our luck and “make webs for ourselves.” The wonderful thing about that phrase is that it can be anything you want. For some, it’s a dream job, and for others, a home. For those unfamiliar with the term, aeronauts travel using hot-air balloons or other flying objects. After Charlotte weaves impressive words about Wilbur in her web, Mrs. Arable, Fern’s mother, isn’t sure how that happened. When she visits Dr. Dorian, she retells the story to him, and he just says that webs are a miracle. Mrs. Arable isn’t sure what the doctor means, and she states the line above. However, the line is yet another hit on E. B. White’s part about human nature. We often don’t like or even fear what we don’t understand. Sometimes, that can cost us some great adventures or memories. On a more serious level, some hateful people attack others because they’re different. White here states they don’t like them because they can’t understand them. Also, some of us always worry about the things we don’t understand. However, we should listen to Dr. Dorian when he says: “I don’t understand everything, and I don’t intend to let it worry me.” In this brilliant line, a spider’s web stands as a metaphor for various things. It can stand for human beings who are stronger than they look. We all go through difficult times and sometimes may look fragile, but we have thicker skin than we think. It’s like E. B. White is saying: whatever hardship we’re going through, and I don’t not easily broken. Like a spider’s web (especially barn spiders who build their webs anew every day), we always recuperate and get back on our feet. This is a wonderful message for kids and adults reading Charlotte’s Web. This funny line appears in the book after Wilbur receives a ribbon at the County Fair. Uncle Homer, a proud and boastful man, was over the moon when Wilbur won. This line is famous because it reveals a lot about us deep down. We all secretly like it when we’re praised or rewarded for something. Moreover, it isn’t so much about the prize, but the presence of all the people around. Although we’re not as terrible as Uncle Homer to feel proud because his pig (not even himself) won a prize, deep down, we’re still happy when someone taps our shoulder and says, “good job.” Charlotte proclaims this line to Wilbur as part of her plan to save him before it’s too late. The first part of her plan was to make Wilbur stronger and stop him from worrying so much. However, as with almost all the other lines from Charlotte’s Web, this is a great message to younger and adult readers. White seems to suggest that we should enjoy our lives without much worry. The best way to preserve our physical and mental health is to sleep and be relaxed. In the spirit of the advice above, don’t hurry to leave the page just yet. Read my other article to see why you should read Charlotte’s Web and choose other most-read children’s books! © Chilkibo Publishing 2025 Share — copy and redistribute the material in any medium or format for any purpose, even commercially. Adapt — remix, transform, and build upon the material for any purpose, even commercially. The licensor cannot revoke these freedoms as long as you follow the license terms. Attribution — You must give appropriate credit , provide a link to the license, and indicate if changes were made. You may do so in any reasonable manner, but not in any way that suggests the licensor endorses you or your use. ShareAlike — If you remix, transform, or build upon the material, you must distribute your contributions under the same license as the original. No additional restrictions — You may not apply legal terms or technological measures that legally restrict others from doing anything the license permits. You do not have to comply with the license for elements of the material in the public domain or where your use is permitted by an applicable exception or limitation . No warranties are given. The license may not give you all of the permissions necessary for your intended use. For example, other rights such as publicity, privacy, or moral rights may limit how you use the material. A masterpiece of American children’s literature, Charlotte’s Web is a fable by E.B. White about a runt of a pig named Wilbur, who is loved by a little girl and befriended by a very clever spider named Charlotte. Author E.B. White, a humorist and elegant essayist who wrote for the New Yorker and Esquire and edited The Elements of Style, wrote two other classic children’s books, Stuart Little, and The Trumpet of the Swan. But Charlotte’s Web—an adventure story set largely in a barn, a story of friendship, a celebration of farm life, and much more—is arguably his finest work. The story begins with Fern Arable rescuing the runt of a pig’s litter, Wilbur, from certain slaughter. Fern cares for the pig, who beats the odds and survives—which is something a theme for Wilbur. Mr. Arable, fearing his daughter is becoming too attached to an animal that is being bred to be butchered, sends Wilbur to the nearby farm of Fern’s uncle, Mr. Zuckerman. Wilbur settles into his new home. At first, he’s lonely and misses Fern, but he settles in when he meets a spider named Charlotte and other animals, including Templeton, a scavenging rat. When Wilbur discovers his fate—pigs are raised to become bacon—Charlotte hatches a plan to help him. She spins a web over Wilbur’s sty that reads: “Some Pig.” Mr. Zucker spots her work and thinks it is a miracle. Charlotte keeps spinning her words, deploying Templeton to bring back labels so she can copy words such as “Terrific” over Wilbur’s pigpen. When Wilbur is taken to the country fair, Charlotte and Templeton go to continue their work, as Charlotte spins new messages. The results draw enormous crowds and Charlotte’s plan to save Wilbur’s life pays off. At the close of the fair, however, Charlotte says goodbye to Wilbur. She is dying. But she entrusts her friend with a sack of eggs she has spun. Heartbroken, Wilbur takes the eggs back to the farm and sees that they hatch. Three of Charlotte’s “kids” stay with Wilbur, who lives happily with Charlotte’s descendants. Charlotte’s Web was awarded the Massachusetts Children’s Book Award (1964), Newbery Honor Book (1953), Laura Ingalls Wilder Medal (1970), and Horn Book Fanfare. Newbery Medal websiteThe Newbery Medal was first offered in 1921 by Fredric G. Melcher as an incentive for better quality in children’s books. Named aNewbery Medal websiteThe Newbery Medal was first offered in 1921 by Fredric G. Melcher as an incentive for better quality in children’s books. Named after John Newbery, the famous 18th-century publisher and seller of children’s books, it is now donated annually by the Melcher family and awarded by the Association for Library Service to Children, a division of the American Library Association. It is awarded to the author of the most distinguished contribution to American literature for children published during the preceding year.From the beginning of the awarding of the Newbery Medal, committees could, and usually did, cite other books as worthy of attention. Such books were referred to as Newbery “runners-up.” In 1971 the term “runners-up” was changed to “honor books.” The new terminology was made retroactive so that all former runners-up are now referred to as Newbery Honor Books. These are cited here as Nominees.